

Newport



Mercury

ESTABLISHED JUNE 12, 1758.

NEWPORT, R. I., SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 9, 1864.

NUMBER 4,867.

VOLUME XXIII.

Newport Mercury.
PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY BY
W. COUGHMAN & F. A. PRATT.
GEO. C. MASON, EDITOR.
No. 111 State St., 123 Thames Street

Two Dollars per annum, or \$1.75 if
paid in advance.

Advertisements inserted at the lowest
rate made to those who advertise by
mail.

Not a paper discontinued (unless at the op-
tion of the proprietors) until arrears are paid.

Poetry.

NOT ON THE BATTLE FIELD.

BY JOHN PIERCE.

To fall on the battle-field fighting for my
country—that would not be hard.

O, no!—let me be
a full of battle when I die!
Let not the iron tread
The mad war horse crash my helmeted head!
Not let the reeking knife
Draw down across a brother's life,
Nor my hand with death
Grasp along and trample me beneath
His heavy squad-on's heels,
Or follow in his cannon's wheels.

For such a living hell,
To see the stripes of white and red,
And the blood eagle bring
Disaster down upon his wide spread wings,
To sparkle in my sight,
Or see his spirit take his flight!

I know that beauty's eye
The brighter when gay peasants fly,
And loaves helmets dance,
A smile flashes on the lifted lance:
I know that love has sung
A thousand times the wedding ring
In honor of the brave
Who on the battle field have found a grave.

I know that our dear bones
Are grateful piled upon monumental stones,
Some of those piles I've seen:
One at Lexington, upon the green
Where the first blood was shed;
And many a country's independence
Was won, on our soil,
By the blood of our brave
Who on the battle field have found a grave.

Such honors grace the bed,
Where, when the warrior lays his head,
And hovers, as the life eases,
The conqueror's hand the conqueror's shout,
And the eye of glory
Here the brave have found a grave.

And in my dying hour,
When riches, fame, and honor have no power
To leave the spirit up,
Or my lips to taste the cup
That all must drink at last,
Let me draw refreshment from the past!
Then let my soul run back,
With peace and joy, along my earthly track,
And so that all the seeds
That I have sown in life, in virtuous deeds,
May spring up and have given,
Abundantly, of which to taste in Heaven!

And though no grassy mound
Or granite pile say "this heroic ground
Where he remains reposed,
Still will I hope—vain hope perhaps!—that those
Whom I have loved to bleed,
The warrior souls that the galaxies,
May send around my grave,
With the poor prisoner, and the poorest slave,
And breathe a hallow prayer,
That they may do like him whose bones are
Moulding there.

Agriculture.

SORE BACKS.—A correspondent at a dis-
tance writes as follows, which may prove
serviceable to some of our readers:—"If
your horse is troubled with a sore or galled
back, rub with lead, softened to a paste
with lard or oil, on the injured part, till
the sore is completely covered. Some re-
commend for this purpose a solution of
vitrol in water; but the former remedy is
far preferable, and, on the whole, more
certain to effect a cure. I have known bad
galls entirely healed and cured by it in a
few days. Wounds on any part of the ani-
mal, if not deep and of a serious character,
are greatly eased and disposed to heal
rapidly by this application. Try it."

Germania Telegraph.

To Keep Sweet Corn.—The only
way to keep sweet corn of any variety for
winter use, is to partially cook and then
dry it; or put it in a close jar, or other
tight vessel. Corn nicely kept in this way
is very good, as we had abundantly tested.
Years before the Stowell corn was ever
heard of.

Miscellaneous.

THE DEFENCES OF SEBASTOPOL.

The city of Sebastopol consists of a
series of platforms running up a steep ac-
clivity from the sea to the high hills which
tower over it at the distance of a league
and a half, and from the top of which is
unfolding the whole panorama of the town
and harbor. Nearer that *ensemble* ceases to
be visible, and even the tops of the
masts are no longer seen, so deeply does
the site sink down to the level of the road-
stead and of the port. From this configura-
tion of the ground it comes to pass that
the town is built one part over the other
so as to form an amphitheatre, like Algiers,
but better built as its construction is quite
modern, dating from 1799. The transverse
streets, parallel to the roadstead, commu-
nicate with each other only by steep
ascents; but at their extremities there are
lines of communication of a less abrupt
character for vehicles. The town contains
several monuments, and among others, the
churches, and principally all the buildings
of the navy, the arsenal, the barracks and
the hospitals.

The population is about 40,000 in ordi-
nary times, including 20,000 soldiers or
sailors. The 20,000 civil inhabitants are
employees of all kinds—persons from the
navy and the army on half-pay, a few shop-
keepers, and some workmen and fisher-
men. The reader must bear in mind this
fact, that not one of the great fortifications
outside the town on the harbor can protect
it against attacks by land; and that the
two batteries of the Quarantine, situated
at the lower part of the outward ground
cannot aid in its defence. When the Rus-
sian Government conceived the plan of a
great fortified place to command the Black
Sea, it had all these forts constructed
at an immense expense, and the double
and triple stories of their casemated bat-
teries give them such a formidable aspect
that they have been even compared to the
fortifications of Malta. The roadstead and
port are, in fact, almost unattackable by
sea, but the town itself was never fortified
—all that was done being to draw round it
a weak wall, merely intended to protect it
against a *coup de main*. The Russian
Cabinet could never have imagined then
that an Anglo-French army of 100,000
men would one day land in the Crimea to
lay siege to Sebastopol. At present, as
that extraordinary fact is being realized in
the most serious manner, it has been ne-
cessary to think of fortifying the town on
the land side, and that is what the Russians
have been doing for the last three months.

The Quarantine Bay on the west (the
extreme left of the attack) is defended by
the double battery of the same name.—
Near that spot is Fort Alexander and by
the side of that fort a battery called the
Battery of Sebastopol, because it forms
part of the town itself. From this battery
runs a crenellated wall for musketry, about
five-eighths of an English mile in length,
which runs up the steep hill to the top,
where is a large round fort with 20 guns
on the platform, and surrounded below by
a battery, the rampart of which is 10 feet
high. The wall and the bastion have a
ditch in front, but there is neither covered
way nor glacis in front of this ditch. The
French, being charged with the attack on
the left, will probably have to bombard the
fort, after which they will command the
bay as well as the Quarantine Battery, and
even the whole of the western side of the
town. But they will have other obstacles
to overcome before arriving there. Under
the cannon of the round fort is situated a
large fortified barrack, which has been lately
flanked by several strong works.

From that barrack runs a wall entirely
surrounding the town, the port, and the
arsenal, to beyond the careening basin to-
wards the Tehernyas, at the extremity of
the roadstead, which gives a development
of from 3-4 to 5 English miles, including
the sinuosities. This wall is three feet
thick, is crenellated, and has in front a
ditch, the earth of which has been thrown
in front to form a glacis covering the
masonry in many places. This wall is not
terraced—that is, does not form a rampart
above which that artillery can be placed.—
But on the points where, in a regular forti-
fication, there would be bastions, the Rus-
sians have raised batteries, in the forms of
cavaliers, firing above the wall. The dis-
arming of their line-of-battle ships has fur-
nished them with the means of providing
all their works with artillery of large calibre
and they have without doubt plenty of men
to serve them, more or less expert. This
imperfect system of fortification cannot
have any value, except by the tenacity of
the besieged, by their great number, and
by the ability of the engineers.

The centre of the line is defended by the
fort of Akhtiar, raised on a high point at
the top of the town. At a little distance
from this fort commences three ravines,
descending to the roadstead. One, on the
west, terminates by the Quarantine
Bay; another, in the centre, cuts on the

east, descends right to the north to form
the port, which is the prolongation of
that same ravine into the sea. It is prin-
cipally at the lower of the port, that are
accumulated the defences, for (even should
the ships of the line be burnt by the Rus-
sians) it is still important for them to
prevent all access to the port, particularly
that of the faubourg of Kerbelnam, on the
eastern side. If the besiegers on the right,
the English, seize on this faubourg, while
the French have made themselves masters
of the round fort, the town would find it-
self between two fires, and so overwhelmed
with bombs, balls, and shells, that a gar-
rison cannot remain there. But it is to be
noticed that the Russians, when at the end
of their efforts in the town, will always be
at liberty to cross the roadstead, and take
refuge in the forts on the northern side.

Among the works destined to defend
the ravine of the port, two great batteries
in the form of towers are mentioned—
a recent construction, said to be built of
stone and brick. From want of time to
raise a third tower at the bottom of the
fort, the Russians have placed a line of
batteries to perform the duty of a battery
against the mouth of the ravine. Besides,
the works are still going on, night and day
without interruption. One-half of the gar-
rison is occupied with them, and all the
able-bodied inhabitants are obliged to
take part in them. Sebastopol is com-
manded almost on every side by hills rising
one over the other to a great height, as al-
ready stated. But the nearest hills have
been a long time back levelled by works
which lasted 12 years; and the earth taken
from them was removed to the side of the
Quarantine or to certain hollows which
might facilitate the approaches.

There is not, consequently, any height
now commanding the town within 500 or
600 yards of the place. But beyond that
radius the Russians occupied with strong
redoubts several elevated positions, which
have forced the besiegers to open the
trenches at an unusual distance, 1,500 to
1,800 metres from the place, it is said.—
Although these positions were only fortified
by earthworks, where a sudden assault
might be attempted, the allied generals
have preferred operating by rule to sacri-
ficing good soldiers, whose devoted-
ness and bravery will be required at a later
period for decisive blows. The re-
doubs of which we are speaking were to
have been battered in breach and taken
we cannot say at what date. The besieg-
ing army will then be pushed forward on
that ground to make its trenches against
the place itself. However, outside the
wall round the town it will be necessary
to batter down and destroy some works
protecting it on the weakest points. In
fine, all these works and obstructions
raised in haste, cannot have the stability
and resistance of a real permanent forti-
fication. Although the Russians are pro-
vided with large cannon, such pieces are not
sufficient without good ramparts. It is be-
sides, proved by the experience of all
sieges, that the fire of the besieging party
has always an advantage over that of the
very strongest positions of an enemy.

INDIVIDUAL EFFORT.—LOVE OF DISPLAY.

This feature of the age is peculiar to
no condition in society and no portion of
the country. It is seen in the splendid
furniture of the drawing room, in the ele-
gant attire of the city belle, in the silk
dresses and ribbons of those that receive
monthly wages for the service of their
hands, and in the desperate efforts of fami-
lies of every grade to out-do equals, in en-
tertainments and style of living. It is the
canker worm which threatens to eat up
every green thing. It devours the income
of the merchant and of the professional
man, and blasts his fair prospects of com-
fort and enjoyment. It consumes the
golden harvest of the farmer and the rich
products of the dairy. It disturbs the
repose of wealth and starves the children of
poverty.

The love of display is an insidious
passion, but the parent of innumerable
vices and untold sorrows. It produces dis-
content with present circumstances. He
that is doomed to unremitting toil, to earn
his bread by the sweat of his brow, views
with longing eyes the ease and luxury of
his more successful neighbor; and fancies
he should be completely happy, were he to
attain to such a condition. He does not
know that there is no greater misery than
having nothing to do; except not doing
anything. He does not consider that con-
sistent happiness, and that virtue
and innocence, and useful activity alone
can secure content;—that the different
degrees of contentment are only compari-
tive; arising chiefly from the disposition
and habits we cultivate. He does not con-
sider that all the splendor which wealth
could purchase, would furnish no solid food
for the immortal spirit. He forgets that
the mind, which has no outward employ-
ment, will become a prey to itself; or that
if one has the means of gratifying his love
of display, it may only stimulate the evil
passions of his nature, render him less an
object of respect, in the estimation of so-

ciet, in his own estimation, and especially
in the estimation of that Being, who has
passed sentence upon pride as the abom-
inable thing which his soul hateth.

The love of display is a kind of foolish
idolatry, which carries its own punish-
ment. It often induces "blindness of
mind" as well as "hardness of heart," and
moroseness of temper. While it attributes
undue advantages to rank and wealth, it
loses sight of the value of character, and
all the amiable virtues, and substitutes in
their place a bubble that a breath of wind
may dissipate. He who cherishes such a
disposition, while he has not the means
of gratifying it, not only deceives himself,
and ensures disappointment and regret, but
wastes the energies of his mind in fruitless
wishes and ungrateful repinings against
what he impudently dares to call partial
dispensations of Heaven. The daily
presumptuous prayer of his heart is, "Lead
me into temptation, and I will take care
of myself." He knows not that the posses-
sion of what he so ardently covets, instead
of calming his insatiable passion, and
satisfying his soul, would only add fuel
to the fire which is consuming him, and
which, unless extinguished in due time,
may torment him forever.

The ambition of parents for display
leads their children to habits of idleness
and uselessness, as well as extravagance.—
It invests idleness with the fancied charms
of refinement. Multitudes, especially of
the young, in spite of the remonstrances
of conscience and of Heaven, spend their
days in the utter neglect of solid study, or
of any employment that would render
them useful members of the community,
or procure the means of honest living, mer-
ely because they imagine it might not
contribute to their best appearance, and
might not afford them the fairest preten-
sions to admission into the circles of fash-
ion.—And many mistaken, foolish parents
deprive themselves of everything beyond
the bare necessities of life, and even of
needful sleep, that they may thus indulge
their children in the vain expectation of
rendering them more respectable, or of
recommending them to the notice of their
more wealthy neighbors.

Another evil attending this passion for
show, is, that it is a strong temptation to
dishonesty and crime. It is in fact the
arch-seducer from the paths of rectitude
and honor—the insidious bribe for which
men of talents and personal accomplish-
ments have, within the last few years, in
such numerous instances, betrayed the
trust reposed in them, made shipwreck of
character, and ruined their dearest friends.
Ay, and it is for such a price as this, to
gratify the ignoble desire of "walking in
a vain show," that not a few bolder inno-
cence and heavenly purity, and receive
upon their foreheads the stamp of shame
and infamy.

The passion for dress and show, in
many instances, becomes such a mania,
that to gratify it mothers and daughters will
sacrifice the peace and comfort of an in-
dulgent father, will consent to see him
struggling from year to year with embar-
assments which will break down his
spirits, and threaten his life, and perhaps
involve the utter ruin of his soul, as well
as that of his household.

The immense sum expended to gratify
this guilty passion would not only furnish
the means of education, comfort and use-
fulness, to every child in our land, but
would be amply sufficient within a few
years to extend the blessings of civilization
freedom and Christianity, to every portion
of the globe.

But we are not to expect reform in this
matter, any more than in the temperance
to begin with those who are the special
subjects of it. It must commence in the
self-denying example and efforts of the
comparatively innocent. The rich by
kindly and condescendingly setting an ex-
ample of moderation in their dress, equip-
age, and style of living, might very greatly
diminish the temptation to discontent,
envy, indolence, and crime, among the
poor. And this self-denial would not
only please their neighbor, but what is
infinitely more important, it would please
that Being who has made them to differ.

It would greatly enhance the value of their
property and their enjoyment in it, and
would enable them fully to test by experi-
ence that heavenly maxim, "It is more
blessed to give than receive."

The middling classes also, by adopting a
less showy style of living, might secure
vastly more of everything really desirable
—more of the substantial comforts of life
—more independence of creditors—more
time for that intellectual and moral culture,
so requisite to secure the best influence in
society;—and more time and money for
extending the rich blessings of science,
freedom and spiritual life to the ignorant
and destitute.

But the laboring and poorer classes are
the ones who would be most directly ben-
efited by reformation of this kind. If the
hard earnings which are now spent in vain
attempts to imitate the dress or style of
living of the more wealthy, were economi-
cally expended in plain food, and plain

and comfortable apparel, suited to their
employments, these classes of the commu-
nity would soon find that they were more
happy in their condition, more respected
even by the rich and much more likely to
secure that elevation, and that indepen-
dence so earnestly desired.

These sentiments cannot but commend
themselves to every intelligent and candid
mind. They present then a noble field,
individual effort, the effort of self-denial.
For the evil, like that of intemperance in
former years, is almost universal. But a
great reform in this matter, as in that, may
be easy, and in every respect advan-
teous.

In reference to dress, it would simply
require that individuals should "adorn
themselves with modest apparel,"—in other
words that they dress according to the
common mode, or fashion—avoiding, what
all sensible men despise, the desire of nov-
elty, singularity of any kind. In reference
to furniture, equipage, and living, that
they seek simply what is comfortable,
humble, and decent,—independent of the
opinions and habits of the vain and proud.
In place of mere external show, it would
require simply "the ornament of a meek
and quiet spirit," which in the estimation
of all the wise, as well in the site of
Heaven is of "great price."

In view of such considerations then
involving the best interests of mankind
for both worlds, is there not enough of
enlightened patriotism and philanthropy,
in multitudes of our good citizens, at once
to engage in this individual effort?

THE HOT SUPPER.

"We are to have a hot supper in the
loft over Kinnard's store," said a Junior to
Brown, a class-mate. "Turkey, chickens,
apple-pie and custards, precisely at
twelve. All the class are to be there, and
you won't refuse this time," said White.
"It is to be particularly quiet and sober.
You'll not regret it my dear fellow."

"Well, perhaps I will go," said his com-
panion, who had uniformly refused all in-
vitations of this sort, to clubs, oyster sup-
pers and convivialities of his fellow col-
legians, incurring thereby the odious epi-
thet of a "stingy methodist."

So he handed a blank-note to the Junior,
who left him in high spirits at his unlooked-
for success.
For nearly three years Brown had firmly
resisted every temptation of this kind, and
his high standing as a scholar, together
with an unblemished reputation and oblig-
ing disposition, exempted him from the
suspicion and obloquy usually the reward
of such will doing.

Congratulations were expressed, and
bets laid by the high fellows who were sur-
prised as well as delighted, that at last
"the bird was caught."

"I tell you," said Parsons to Stone,
"we've nailed him. He's coming, and no
mistake. I've laid a bet of ten dollars
that he shall drink. He can't refuse.—
Now remember, mix fourth proof brandy
with his port, half and half, I say."

"Yes, yes, I know," replied Stone,
"wouldn't I give ten to see the sport?
never fear."

The night was cold and starry, when
Brown threw aside his books, adjusted his
tobacco pipe, and walked towards Kin-
nard's store, not however without some
compunctious visitings of conscience at the
consent so hastily given to be present at
the supper. For once, it may do no harm
to see what those famous suppers are, al-
though I had much rather be on my pillow,
to tell the truth. When he reached the
store, the door was closed, and all was
silent; but a faint light from the loft
showed signs of vitality, and gently
pushing open the door, he made his way
through packages and barrels to the stairs,
and soon was admitted to the busy group.

Wetted appetites on a keen December
night, seldom luxuriously indulged within
the precincts of commons; various savory
odors from the steaming dishes, together
with the cheerful faces of the young col-
legians who were laying the cloth, and
producing from baskets and pails, the ma-
terials for the feast, altogether, made it a
scene of exhilaration and pleasure.

After arrangements were finished to the
satisfaction of all present, the leading mem-
ber of the class arose, and with mock grav-
ity imitating the doctor, rung a little bell,
and desired someone to say a grace.

A general titter went round the table,
but all involuntarily glanced at Brown,
who, nothing daunted, instantly rose, and
reverently asked a blessing of God on the
food so unexpectedly provided.

A silence followed. Stone tried to get
off a witticism upon the chaplain, but it
didn't take. Great good humor however
prevailed. The smoking viands were de-
liciously prepared, and the repast went off
with unusual courtesy and self-restraint.
The fragments soon disappeared; plates,
knives and forks, gathered up into baskets,
and wine followed as a matter of course.

Parsons, who presided, bowing low to
Brown, presented the glass, with the toast,
"Good fellowship."

"I thank you," replied Brown, "no one
desires good fellowship with all the present

company more than myself, but as I never
drink wine, I shall only damp your festi-
vity, and therefore beg leave to retire."—
With this he rose and was proceeding to
the door, when Stone sprang forward and
put the key in his pocket.

"You will not leave this room, Brown,
till you have drunk with us. We only
drink to good fellowship. You surely are
not the crabbed fellow to go off now—
Come Brown, for once be merry and have
a good time. Who's afraid?"

"I am not, my friend," said Brown
firmly, as he returned to his seat, "and as I
believe courtesy permits me to take the
floor, I will reply to the toast as a fraternal
brother." Brown then proceeded in a
strain of eloquence to address his auditors
—who had before expressed the highest ad-
miration for his talents,—and briefly ar-
ranged his arguments in favor of a strictly
temperate course of life. His companions
listened in silence while he alluded to
scenes of disgraceful riot which had ex-
pelled some of the members of college dur-
ing the term, to their homes, carrying sor-
row and distress to their friends; and feel-
ingly did he appeal to their nobler motives
to abandon a course which must end in
ruin.

He drew a picture of friends at home,
toiling early and late, to afford them the
advantages of education; of the mother's
prayers for her absent sons. He appealed
to their future welfare, their ambitious
hopes, all connected with college life.

Brown sat down, surprised himself at
the respectful attention he received.

"You've lost your ten," whispered
Stone to Parsons.

"Yes, and got a temperance lecture in
the bargain," replied Parsons.

The door was unlocked, and Brown bade
his companions good evening, and walked
out, but was instantly followed by a young
man who had sat thoughtfully at the lower
end of the table, shading his face with his
hand.

"Brown, give me your hand. Listen.
I here solemnly promise by the stars above
that, never will I touch a drop of liquor
again. I have wasted time and money
enough. God sent you to this loft to-night.
I have a widowed mother whose very life
is bound up in mine. Brown, you have wak-
ed me from a fatal dream. God bless you."

And thus the delicate wheels of Di-
vine Providence take up opportunities im-
proved, faithful, earnest efforts of true dis-
ciples, turning the channels of vice and
dissipation into healthy currents of living
streams, which shall flow on forever.—
"Workers with God," be faithful, for an
eternity shall develop the mighty wonder
of human instrumentality, wrought in, and
carried out by the mysterious machinery of
Divine Providence.

"Who is your Biblical Professor," in-
quired Brown, several years after, while
visiting a Theological Seminary in one of
the Northern States.

"Why, Prof. Alden, you must know
him, one of the best of men and most dis-
tinguished scholars."

"Alden! ah! yes, I remember him."

The friends met, and mutual embraces
and rapid inquiries followed.

"Your sermon in Kinnard's loft was the
instrument of saving me, my dear friend.
From that night I was an altered man.—
But for you, I had been lost to friends, to
reputation, and lost to myself."

Blessed be God, for seed dropped by the
wayside, for links of Providence touching
the festive board, and reaching on through
eternal ages.

Why do folks make such a do about their four-fathers?

"Why do folks make such a do about
their four-fathers?" said Mrs. Partington
to the school-master who was asking her
genealogy. She stopped rolling out the
crust of a pie as she spoke, and with her
hands still upon the rolling pin, she looked
at him over her left shoulder. "Why
should folks try to find out so hard about
their four-fathers, when it's full as much
as many want to do to find out that they
have had one?" The schoolmaster ex-
plained that people were looking more to
pedigree than formerly. "Looking more for
fiddle-dee-dee!" exclaimed the old lady
giving her pin a vigorous thrust just as she
spoke.

"What makes the difference how folks
get here so long as they are here? Why
am I any better, now because my great
grandfather was one of the Jurgensons
that left France on account of their reli-
gious notions?" Here was a mine opened
for the genealogist.

He never once dreamed that the an-
tiquated dame before him could have had
a grandfather, much less that she should
have descended from the Huguenots.—
"Are you indeed a scion of that illustrious
stock," said he, delightedly, whose suffer-
ings and fidelity to their profession are
monuments to their memory? "He did
suffer terribly poor man," replied she,
"towards the last of it with neurology in
his head, and as you say, was faithful to
his profession, for a more honest tinker
never soldered a tea-pot."

The school-master was floored by a sim-
plicity that looked not to ancestry for
glory, depending upon its own intrinsic ex-
cellence for reputation.

"I thank you," replied Brown, "no one
desires good fellowship with all the present

Laws of R. Island.

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS.

In General Assembly October Session, A. D. 1854.

AN ACT to provide for a registration of births, marriages, and deaths, and to govern the rights of many have been sacrificed, and great wrongs have been inflicted upon individuals and the community, and whereas, important records are to be drawn from the knowledge of the number of births, deaths or marriages that during a term of years may occur, or may be contracted within the limits of a State, it is enacted.

Section 1. The clerks of the several towns and cities in this State are hereby authorized and required to cause, chronologically recorded, and under the required by the forms prescribed by the third section of this act, all information concerning births, marriages, and deaths occurring amongst the inhabitants of their respective towns or cities, and on or before the first day of February, annually, to make duly certified returns thereof to the Secretary of State, for each year, ending on the thirty-first day of December, accompanying the same with a list of those individuals, required by law to make returns, who have neglected the same, and with such remarks relating to the objects of the law as he may deem important to communicate.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of the Secretary of State to receive the returns made in pursuance of the preceding section, and monthly, with such assistance as shall be rendered by any authorized committee of the Rhode Island Medical Society, to make and publish (not exceeding seven hundred and fifty copies) a general abstract and report thereof, in which he shall also cause and return to be arranged, all alphabetical indexes of all the names to be made, the whole to be preserved in convenient sized volumes, and to be deposited in his office, for which he shall receive the sum of fifty dollars.

Section 3. The blank forms required to carry out the provisions of this act, shall, on application, be furnished by the Secretary of State, to Clergymen, physicians, school-keepers, and city clerks, clerks of the Society of Friends, and other persons requiring them, substantially after the following form, viz: The record of a birth shall state the date and hour of birth, name of the child, whether living or still born, the name and surname, color, occupation, residence and birth-place of the parents, and time of recording, as far as the same can be ascertained. The record of a marriage, shall state, with such particulars as may be required, the date of the marriage, place, name, residence, and official station of the person by whom married, names and surnames of the parties, color, occupation and residence of each, condition (whether single or widowed), age, and rank of each, and of their parents, and the time of recording, as far as the same can be ascertained. The record of a death shall state the date of death, name, color, surname of deceased, the sex, rank, and occupation of the deceased, the date, place, and time of recording, as far as the same can be ascertained, and the time of recording, as far as the same can be ascertained.

Section 4. Every clergyman, physician, school-keeper, and other persons authorized to join persons in marriage, shall make a faithful record of every such marriage, performed by them, (in manner and form above prescribed, and return the same on or before the second Monday of every month, for the last preceding month, to the clerk of the city or town in which the said marriage was performed, and the parties shall be bound to the authority about solemnizing, he has information hereof, and shall be liable to a fine of five dollars.

Section 5. Of Births.—As a large number of births annually take place without the assistance or intervention of any authorized person, it shall be the duty of each and every person, who returns to each city or town clerk, in manner and form above prescribed, at least within ten days after the same shall have occurred.

Section 6. Of Deaths.—It shall be the duty of each and every practicing physician, or surgeon, or whoever character, to keep a faithful record, and to make returns, as above, on or before the second Monday of each month, of every death occurring in his line of professional duty, within this State, during the last preceding month. If without attendance of a physician, the coroner, shall make returns as above.

Section 7. Of Undertakers.—There may be appointed by the city or town clerk, a sufficient number of persons to act as undertakers, removable at the pleasure of said clerk, and whose duty it shall be to keep a faithful record of all interments by them made, stating where the individual was buried, and the date of burial, and to make returns on or before the second Monday of every month as aforesaid.

Section 8. Any city or town may enact municipal laws, more effectually to obtain the objects herein contemplated, and to secure the same, and to make returns on or before the second Monday of every month as aforesaid, and to procure the most perfect registration.

Section 9. Of Fees.—The city and town clerks shall receive, for each record of a birth, marriage, or death, made and returned as required by this act, to be paid to them out of their respective city and town treasuries: Provided, that the yearly compensation to any one town clerk, who shall faithfully perform the duties prescribed by this act, shall not be less than five dollars.

For one who looks to the air, he breathes and is relieved to avoid as far as possible the noxious vapors, which surround even the most pure, there are thousands who thoughtlessly bend down to rest where they must inhale poison with every breath, and rise up in the morning unrefreshed, to earn their bread amid fields and dusty exhalations. We are too indifferent to these matters, and allow corruption to accumulate around us, without reflecting that the seeds of disease and death are thus broad cast. Wherever there is decay there the atmosphere is charged with gases, that secretly, but most surely, undermine every constitution exposed to their influence. In the country, away from the crowded haunts of men, and where the air is pure as nature found her the mountain peaks, these influences still exist, using their fatal work slowly, but not less sure, for there are still the clouds of decaying matter, in the open field, by the running stream, beneath the dense shade of orchards and woods, and around the barn and cattle shed. But the atmosphere carries off and disperses impurities cast into them and falling from their backs, the trees shed forth their roots and draw nourishment from that which is injurious to man, and the earth absorbs the animal substance decaying upon its surface. It is this that the atmosphere of the country is so much purer, and where there is a free circulation, proper drainage and well constructed receptacles for organic substances thrown aside to decay, the residents of densely crowded abodes will always look to the open fields with longing eyes, and with ardent wish for a change of air that would be so conducive to health.

But how different it is with the town, even where there are natural advantages and ordinary care is taken to remove the decompositions, that in time render the soil a pest-house of infection. Where men live in compact masses, the earth's surface is covered with houses and streets in a manner developing vapors that in open places are neutralized by light and air; vegetable and animal substances are left to decay, ventilation is not attended to, large masses of putrid matter are scarcely covered with earth, cow-pools give out their offensive, and the whole atmosphere is filled with organic atoms—unseen but fatal instruments of destruction, either by slow and wasting disease or the yellow fever, the plague and the cholera.

And of all the evils arising from decomposition there are none so fatal to health as those that spring from decaying animal matter, and particularly from human corpses interred in the bowels of towns. The earth in grave-yards becomes saturated with mephitic and poisonous gases, which cannot be relieved without prejudice to health. Experiments have been made that go to show in some degree the extent of the evils arising from the impurities with which the air is thus burdened, and if we were to collect all the results, the facts set forth would be enough to alarm any community. Magnificent forms so small that three of them would not cover the 7,000 part of an inch—animals of a thousand different shapes, and each possessed of life and motion, are floating about at all times when decomposition is rapid, causing infection and diminishing the number of those exposed to this concealed corruption. In time, as towns grow older, and the number of burials increases, the fetid smell betrays itself at a greater distance, wells are impregnated and rendered useless and a green spot becomes a deadly swamp, sending forth the agents of many dreadful and fatal diseases. And what is still more to be dreaded, by constantly moving the earth for fresh interments in the same graves (as is sometimes the case) an infectious disease is again spread in a town. This was the case the past summer in London, and by exhuming bones that had been buried two hundred years, the plague was revived and great numbers fell victims to it. Persons have also taken the small-pox on opening the grave of one who died of the disease ten years before; and there is to tell how long the seeds of the pest that annually commit such ravages may retain their vigor, when confined in the earth. The only safety is in leaving them alone when once buried, and avoiding everything likely to set them free.

Now is this singular race of dwarfs in Upper Peru, in Bolivia, known as "Chiquitos" or "little men," just as worthy of attention as the Antes. Everything connected with them seems to indicate that they are indigenous, though their general aspect gives the impression of a people reduced in stature by poverty and hardship. The tallest are not more than four and a half feet in height, while many will not measure more than three and a half. Their legs, apparently, are devoid of muscles, their eyes black and elongated, nose aquiline, cheeks drawn in, with high cheek bones, forehead low and receding, hair black and wavy and mouth tending to murmur. They travel slowly, on foot, and are often absent from home two or three years, returning with small herds of silver, given in traffic, travelling about five or six miles a day. From long habit they can do without food an extraordinary length of time, supporting nature by sucking coconuts, gathered from a shrub-tree, analogous to the hato-tree of the East Indies. It is equivalent to tobacco, laudanum, or strong infusion of tea, and it is only when their animals die of disease that they have a plentiful supply of food. Their covering is a coarse kind of cloth, which they prepare themselves, their abodes are rude huts, and when traveling they sleep in the ground, huddled together, to keep warm on the dry cold desert where they are principally found.

When the bombardment of Vera Cruz was first announced in London, the *Times*, ignoring the fact that the American army during the whole campaign in Mexico had scrupulously avoided the destruction of every place in their march without first giving the inhabitants an opportunity to escape, denounced the brutal act that could be conceived of, and kept up its abusive language, for what it was pleased to term the butchery of helpless women and children; and now as soon as the allies effected a landing and brought their guns to bear on Vera Cruz, they deliberately shell the hospital, and in blowing it up destroy its two thousand inmates!

The English and French have said as little about this matter in their reports as possible, and well may they be silent in regard to an act that is without a parallel. The French once smoked about the same number of the natives in Algeria, but they had the excuse that they were contending with men in arms; here, however, steps were deliberately taken to resist as many helpless and dying of the enemy's number.

The Bostonians are complaining of the Cobaltine water, which of late has become disagreeable to the taste, is offensive and has an oily smell upon the surface. The Water Board say that this result arises from decaying leaves, but those who use the water say that this does not account for the appearance of dead fish and fish oil, and express a determination to cut the water off at the end of the quarter if the evil is not removed. The wells in some quarters are again used, and some have even sent out of the city for a supply of water.

The Albany Journal, in speaking of the wants of the country for some new material for paper, assures those who are "growing in despair" that there is a "good time coming," and intimates that the secret well known to a few will effect a wonderful revolution in paper manufacturing.

A number of gamblers have been arrested and fined in Fall River.

Four are entertained for the safety of the shops at Albany and Decatur.

THE ESCAPED NUN.—Many reports are published in reference to the escape of Miss Bunbury, who recently left the nunnery at Emmittsburg. Below we give two statements, one by the young lady to a gentleman of Frederick, Md., the other by the lady's superior. Miss Bunbury writes thus:—

NORFOLK, Nov. 20, 1854.

I have my father's permission to answer the letter you addressed him, requesting a statement of my escape from St. Joseph's. I would remark that I regret exceedingly that so many reports are in circulation, and have thought of making a public statement. With regard to my manner of leaving the convent, the circumstances speak for themselves. Could I have had permission, or had been free to leave when I wished, I would not have had recourse to flight, and that in the still hour of night.

I escaped through a window near the chapel, fronting the avenue, where there is no epidemic, and ran or rather flew down the avenue, as the convent was shining so brightly that I feared being discovered by the watchman, who nightly traverses the grounds around the building. When half way down the avenue, I heard a noise, and soon perceived that the man who sleeps in a little house at the gate, was up, and had raised the window to see who was passing. I hid myself, and he did not perceive me, but he continued waiting at the window until four o'clock, when the sign for Frederick passed, and I was enabled to reach the city, or even pass the gate without being discovered. I then hid myself in a garden, which was six o'clock. I then continued my journey on a road I had never traveled, until I reached Georgetown about nine o'clock, where I met friends who protected me until the arrival of my father.

On the 26th ult., the Lady Superior, writes to a friend in Washington, as follows:—

"Miss Bunbury was with us ten months. She came here for the first time about two years ago to make a retreat, and then returned to be received by her father. A year after she returned her petition was received on trial, and has always appeared to be happy. She was greatly surprised when she was found missing, and much perturbed that she should have left as she did. It is well known that we do not desire to keep any one here who does not desire to remain, and had Miss B. expressed such a wish, we would have been glad to have her go. We felt uneasy about her when we heard from the neighbors that such a person was seen on the road about daylight; and fearing something might happen to her, we sent our overseer to make some inquiry, who learned that she was in Ohio. As soon as we found out that she had really gone, I wrote to her father in Norfolk, telling him our uneasiness, and expressed the hope that she had gone direct to Norfolk. (I kept a copy of this letter.)"

It can be proven by one hundred witnesses now in our institution, Protestant and Catholic, that Miss B. never taught anything here except some lessons on the piano. She was never to write when out of doors as she pleased; was never heard to speak any language but the English, and we doubt much if she knew any other.

"Should any further information be necessary, we can give it, but I believe, this is all that is necessary for the present."

It is at all probable that this young lady would have left the convent in the night and traveled ten miles on a road that she was not acquainted with, if she was free to leave and not under duress? The story of her being at liberty to write to her parents her own sentiments, and to leave when she wished, is evidently a sheer fabrication.

The want of a Revenue Cutter on this station was sensibly felt by us on Monday last. On Saturday the weather was remarkably fine, but on Sunday it clouded up in the morning and before night it set in to rain. That night and Monday it blew a perfect gale and several vessels went ashore—for particular sea disasters—and one went to pieces near Beaver Tail. On Monday the schooner Edward Everett was discovered at anchor close in under the Conant's shore, and near to Kettle-bottom rock, with both anchors down and but little chance of riding out the gale. A number of heroic "Point Boys"—six in all—made a desperate effort to reach her in a boat, and happily succeeded in the perilous undertaking. With their assistance the crew were enabled to get underway and the vessel was successfully brought to anchor in the harbor, where the captain tendered fifty dollars to each of the men who had so gallantly come to his assistance. The fact was a daring one and had it not been successful, the vessel would probably have parted her cables, and in that case it would have required but a few moments to have sailed her fate.

There is no port on the coast where a revenue cutter is more needed than in this Bay, for the number of vessels that seek a shelter here in severe weather is very large, and when they are disabled or about of hands they can only obtain relief from fishing boats and pilots, and in stormy weather, when assistance is most required, they cannot look to even this support. A cutter is necessary to perform the duty, and without one we are in constant danger of having lives and property lost in our waters.

The work on the Parthenon progressed rapidly until the recent cold snap, and now one can judge what the appearance will be when it is completed. It will certainly make a beautiful square and one that will be a great ornament to the city.

During the week the painters have been at work on the State House, and the selection of color for that building is a very good one, bringing out the parts well and giving a fine relief to all the projections.

A handsome iron railing is now wanted around the Mall, but we can hardly expect to obtain it at present. The trees within that inclosure are a beautiful feature, and it surrounded at all, it should be by something more tasteful than the present fence. The trees are all thirty and many of them are perfect in their way; that, for instance, making the southeast corner is one of the finest elms we know of in this neighborhood. In France, where trees are introduced into the open squares, as in the Champs Elysees, they are not surrounded by a pal of any kind; and now that covers are not permitted to run at large, why would it not be as well to remove the fence round the Mall altogether, and leave it open. The effect would hardly be finer; the trees could suffer no injury and the grounds could be kept in the same order; and when the public is accustomed to the change, few would desire to see the fence restored.

How Mrs. DONNELLY GOT HER COAT, AND WHERE SHE GOT IT.—Officer Neal, of South Boston, detected Bridget Donnelly stealing a basket of coal from Old Colony wharf. She was accompanied by her little son to assist in carrying away her plunder. Mr. Neal followed Mrs. Donnelly to her home and found more than the lot of hard coal underneath her bed.

The above reminds us of a story we heard last spring. A coal dealer in this city on going to his business in the morning, was accosted by the captain of a vessel at the dock, with the inquiry—"How many do you supply by the season from that coal heap?"

"None, Why?"

"Then you had better be stirring by times in the month or so, for I have seen no less than five help themselves there to a day's supply, since dawn."

Brown's equestrian statue of Washington has been exhibited to the members of the press, and the New York *Post* in speaking of its merits, expresses the opinion that Mr. Brown has achieved a success that will be world-wide, and says "of all the equestrian statues we have seen, there is none that impresses so strongly as this true artistic feeling as this."

The figure of Washington is described as full of dignity—his head bare, the traditional cocked-hat resting on his right arm, with which he rests his chin, his right arm is extended in the attitude of command. This statue will shortly be sent to Calcutta to be cast.

The taxable property in San Francisco, for the coming year, is set down at thirty-eight millions—Last year it was thirty millions.

A wild goose, measuring seven feet from tip to tip of the wings, was recently shot in the vicinity of New Bedford.

THE TRACK FOR OCEAN STEAMERS.

In the *Mercury* of October 27, we published a communication from one of our subscribers signed D. G. C., proposing a track for Ocean Steamers, which was also inserted in the New York *Times* of October 23d; the plan then proposed appears to have received without notice, until the subject has been revived by Lieut. Maury, in a letter dated Washington, November 7, to Walter H. Jones, Esq., New York, published in the New York *Express* of December 4, in which he says, in relation to such a plan.

"I have reflected much upon the subject, and I like the idea of my friend R. B. Forbes, of Boston, better than any I have heard of. He proposes a double track across the Atlantic for steamers."

Upon reference to Capt. Forbes's letter on the subject, in the *Boston Journal* of October 20, nine days after the insertion of the communication in the *Mercury*, Capt. Forbes says:—

"There are so many steamers now crossing the Atlantic, going out and coming back by the same track, that the danger of collision is much increased, though still very small indeed; to avoid this particular danger, in some degree, I suggest that a rule be adopted for outward steers to keep to the right, and for inward-bound steamers, after passing Cape Race, to keep to the left. If a rule should be established to this effect, by the regular lines, the chances of collision would be still smaller, and the sailing ships, knowing their latitude, would generally be aware when they heard the steamers' paddle, or steam whistle, in a fog, which way she was heading, not on by the number of blasts, but by the position, or place of the ship; a few minutes, or hours, in the length of the passage would be of no consequence, in comparison with the confidence which would be the result of these or similar precautions."

The above is what Lieut. Maury says on the subject of a track for steamers, and it will be observed that his letter is dated nine days after our publication in the *Mercury* on the subject, whether Capt. Forbes or Lieut. Maury saw the *Mercury*, or the New York *Times*, containing the article referred to, or not, is of course uncertain, but so far there seems to be little or no ground for the credit being given by Lieut. Maury to Capt. Forbes, for originating the plan of a double track for steamers, although he and every other experienced navigator must know that such a plan could be adopted, and that it would, thereby reduce the danger of collision in a great degree, whenever the idea should be called to their notice.

It is possible that Lieut. Maury may have seen the communication alluded to in the New York *Times*, and through mistake gave the credit, if there is any merit in it, to Capt. Forbes; it is, however, not necessary for either of those gentlemen to wish to make use of any idea which originates with another, without credit in the right quarter, as their services are too well known in the cause of navigation to require it.

Whatever merits there may be in the plan suggested, it will be seen that it belongs in Newport, and if any further proof is required, it can be obtained, to show that this very plan was proposed to the Captain of one of the Atlantic steamers nearly two years since, and long before any such accident as that of the *Arcton* had occurred, or was thought at all likely ever to happen.

Lieut. Maury enlarges upon the subject, and by way of improving upon the plan of a double track, side by side, he proposes that the two tracks should be separate and distinct, that is 100 miles apart, at a point half-way across the Atlantic, and coming together at each end of the route. As the steamers have heretofore constantly kept one track both going and returning, it is clear that they all agree that it is the best or shortest route—if so, by making two tracks, 100 miles apart at one point, the distance must be thereby increased, and the advantage of great circle sailing in a measure lost. Another objection to two tracks, so far apart, is that merchant vessels would be much less annoyed by one double track exclusively set apart for steamers, than they would be by two single tracks as proposed by Lieut. Maury, so far apart, but gradually approaching at each end of the route, and it would be difficult for captains of Merchant vessels to know how far one track would be from the other, at any one point, as it would depend upon the latitude and longitude, which is often uncertain, especially in bad weather, which often continues for several days together, and they would be much more likely to avoid the Steam track, combined in one, when the lanes were side by side, than when 100 miles or less apart, as the case may be.

It is rather flattering than otherwise that the plan of a Steamers Track across the Ocean, should be approved of both by Lieut. Maury and Capt. Forbes and with two such names endorsing the suggestion, it is to be hoped that it may be adopted, when otherwise it might share a different fate.

Newport, Dec. 7, 1854. D. G. C.

The election of one Democrat to the Massachusetts Legislature has been the source of considerable amusement to the press, and the poor fellow, has been handed round as a butt for all the jokes that can be cracked at his expense. The following, from the Boston *Journal*, is the last we have seen:—

STARKLY DEVELOPED.—It has always been customary in the State legislative proceedings of past years for the Speaker to appoint upon each committee a number of every political party. It is lately hinted that the Know Nothings design to carry out this principle to its fullest extent in the coming Legislature, and by working the one Democrat to death, destroy the last lingering relic of the Democratic party.

A number of Americans have lately passed through the Pongo de Mansaracha, the most dangerous of all the rapids of the Amazon. At that point the whole body of the river is compressed into a channel not over a hundred yards in width, with a wall of rocks on each side some five hundred feet in height. Through this they darted with the swift motion of an arrow, hummed sometimes to a depth of several feet in the water, their rafts entirely unmanageable, and every moment in danger of being dashed to pieces against the rocks. They were probably the first white men who ever attempted the descent.

Mr. C. E. HAMMERT, Jr., purchased the building on Thames st. formerly owned and occupied by Mr. Wm. S. Vose, some time last summer, and recently he has had it fitted to carry on his own business, and the store, which has been arranged with much taste, will afford him great facilities for the display of the books usually found upon his counter.

Trade in New Orleans is very slack, owing to the low state of the river, which prevents a full arrival of produce, and the fear of sickness, which has kept so many away from the city.

The sarcasm in the following epigram from the Portuguese, is surely not a very malignant one:—

"Within her breast, more white than snows,
Fair Amaryllis plants the rose;
Not that the flower should fix our eyes,
But the sweet garden where it lies."

WHEN TO PAINT HOUSES.—A correspondent of the London Builder says that a house should be painted in autumn; wood-work painted in October, he says looks better at the end of four years, than if painted in June, it would at the end of two.

"Know Nothing."—This word in Scotch is *duinn ken*; in French, *sait rien*; in Dutch, *nix fusik*; in Polish, *kut-are-to-sich*; in sure no soft-sky in Foe, *wollor-wollor-wollor*; in Chinese, *hi-yah! men fan!*

The citizens of Savannah have resolved to erect a monument to the memory of "the lamented physicians and devoted clergyman" who perished during the prevalence of the yellow fever.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.—The following synopsis of the Message we extract from the N. Y. Commercial:

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.—The President's observations under this head, with the exception of those which relate to the San Juan affair, are judicious, prudent, and conservative, and will command general approval. He alludes but indirectly to the war in Eastern Europe, tacitly congratulating the American people on adherence to the Washingtonian policy of "avoiding all entangling alliances." The fact that we maintain so small a navy, and so small a standing army, is alluded to as the most satisfactory assurance that we are not disposed to encroach on the rights, or endanger the security of other states.—The territorial expansion of the United States is declared to have resulted from the legitimate exercise of sovereign rights, and our acquisitions are declared to have been "in every instance honorably obtained."

The propositions that "free ships make free goods, except contraband articles," and that "neutral property, other than contraband, though on board enemy's ships, shall be exempt from confiscation," have been submitted by our Government to those of Europe and America. Russia has entered into a convention recognizing these principles; and the King of the Two Sicilies has expressed his readiness to do the same. The King of Prussia approves the project of a treaty to the same effect but proposes an additional article for the remuneration of privateering. This proposition, the President argues convincingly, the United States Government can never listen to, unless the leading Powers of Europe concur in proposing, as a rule of international law exempt private property, upon the ocean, from seizure by public armed cruisers as well as by privateer.

The treaty of reciprocity of trade, &c., with the British North American provinces is referred to as having secured "privileges of the highest importance and value to the United States," and Congress is recommended to grant authority to refund the duties collected on fish and other products brought to our markets from the British provinces, since the free navigation of the St. Lawrence, &c., was opened to our commerce.

A joint commission is recommended for the purpose of establishing the boundary line in controversy, between Washington territory and the British possessions adjoining. And a contingent appropriation is suggested, to enable the government to extinguish the Hudson's Bay Company's possessory rights, and their right to the navigation of the Columbia river.

The President trusts that our intercourse with France "will not be interrupted or checked by any casual event of an apparently unsatisfactory character." An explanation has been made in regard to the affair of the French consul at San Francisco, which, it is hoped, will be satisfactory. The exclusion of Mr. Soule from France has been explained, but the President expresses no opinion in relation to it; he merely lays the correspondence on the subject before Congress.

Affairs with Spain are said to remain as at the close of the last session of Congress, but we are told there is reason to believe that our Minister will find the present Government more favorably inclined than the preceding, to comply with our just demands, and to make suitable arrangements for restoring harmony, and preserving peace between the two countries.—Cuba is not mentioned, and is not alluded to, unless its acquisition is to be one of the "suitable arrangements."

The President recommends that notice be given to Denmark of our intention to terminate the treaty of 1826, which, among other provisions that need amendment, contains one implicitly recognizing right of Denmark to impose tolls on American vessels passing through the Sound.

Commodore Perry's expedition to Japan (originated by President Fillmore's Administration,) is acknowledged to have been "ably and skillfully conducted."

The endeavors to obtain from the Mexican Government redress for numerous wrongs and injuries to our citizens have hitherto been unsuccessful, owing, the President thinks, in some measure, to the disturbed state of the country.

By treaties with the Argentine Confederation, &c., the free navigation of the La Plata, and some of its larger tributaries, has been secured to us; and it is hoped that negotiations with Brazil for the free navigation of the Amazon will, eventually, be successful.

The President next attempts to justify the destruction of San Juan. About one fifth part of his message is devoted to this subject.

As to the War Department, the President urges an increase of the military forces employed in the territory inhabited by the Indians. The increase of the pay of rank and file is said to have had beneficial results; but he thinks the pay of the officers ought to be increased. He recommends that four new regiments be raised, two of the mounted men; that the laws regulating rank and command may be modified so that the duties of the army staff shall be mainly discharged by officers detached from their regiments; that promotion be governed by merit, and not merely by seniority; that a retired list for aged and inferior officers be authorized for one year as an experiment; and that a corps of artillery be formed, and the nominal distinction between a large part of the troops now called artillery and the infantry be discontinued.

The recommendation of the Secretary of the Navy, "having reference to more ample provisions for the discipline and general improvement in the character of seamen, and for reorganization and gradual increase of the navy," is deemed by the President eminently worthy of favorable consideration. The President approves the proposed apprentice system, and recommends legislation to protect lives and property at sea.

The Report of the Postmaster-General is said to show that the finances of this department during the year ending June, 30th, 1854, were as follows:

Expenditure.....\$8,710,907
Gross receipts.....6,955,586
Deficit.....\$1,755,321

The increase of revenue of the department over the previous year was \$970,399; but the cost of mail transportation was increased by \$465,074; and the diminution of deficiency was only \$361,756. The Post office Department is therefore still a charge upon the treasury, and the President thinks that, under existing laws, it must continue to be. He commends the suggestions of the Postmaster General on the subject of mail transportation by ocean steamers, but does not specify what those suggestions are.

The amount of revenue derived from the sale of public lands during the past fiscal year is said to be unparalleled during any like period in our previous history.—The number of acres sold is 7,035,735, and the amount received \$9,085,583.

INCIDENTS OF WAR.—The bold Maguire.

A private of the 33d regiment, (Duke of Wellington's), by name Maguire, has attracted the notice of the commander-in-chief by an act of daring. He was in advance as a sharp-shooter, and was made prisoner. He was being marched away between two Russian soldiers, a third being in rear, when seeing his guard for a moment careless, and looking in another direction, he suddenly seized a loaded musket from one of the two men at his side and discharged it at him. No sooner had he done this, than he swung round the butt end, and with it struck the second Russian, who fell from the head of the column, and he fled into the woods. The third Russian, alarmed, and Maguire effected his escape. He was at the time within a hundred yards of the Russian lines. His own Musket, which had been taken from him, was being carried by one of the two men by his side; but he knew this had been discharged, and therefore seized a musket from the other soldier, which fortunately turned out to be loaded. The affair was witnessed by a sergeant of the rifle brigade, and in consequence of his report, Lord Raglan awarded Maguire with a gratuity of £5. [A very inadequate reward for so bold an act. Surely so bold and successful an act deserved promotion rather than money, or both.]

From one in a cavalry charge. There were the Grays and First Royals up at this time, and we charged them—they had nothing else for it, so they charged at the same time. Oh, God! I cannot describe it. They were so superior in numbers that they "outranked" us, and we were in the middle of them. I never certainly felt less fear in my life than I did at that time, and I hope God will forgive me, for I felt more like a devil than a man. We fought our way out of them on only Englishmen can fight, and the 4th, 5th and 6th were there up with us. I escaped without a scratch, thank God, though I was covered with blood; my horse was not even wounded; but, oh! the work of slaughter that then began—'twas truly awful, but I suppose it was necessary, we cut them down like sheep, and they did not seem to have power to resist. The plain is covered and covered with dead Russians, and of course we left some of our poor comrades on the field. We only lost two, and about seven wounded.

AN OLD SETTLER.—We heard lately of an old genius, living somewhere over towards Conway, who, in some respects, is an example to young men of our degenerate days.

He is now nearly 92, and goes out to work at threshing by the day, and does a good day's work. The winter he was 89, he went into the woods and chopped and hauled wood, for the winter, and last winter thinking he was rather old for the woods, he contented himself with chopping up his own wood at his door.—He keeps a cow, lives three miles from town, and once a week, rain or shine, takes his butter in a pair of saddle-bags, and starts on foot for the store. He furnishes himself with all the necessities of life, and we are sorry to say reckons liquor among them. He is a determined opponent of the Maine Law, and says he shouldered his musket once and fought for liberty, and if he was a young man he would do it again now.—The winter he was 90, a gentleman from New York met him, and promised him a \$5 bill for each succeeding birthday; he has already had one—and says if he don't overdo himself he thinks he will get nine more.—N. Adams Transcript.

GOLD IN VERMONT.—A bona fide discovery of gold has recently been made in the south part of Stowe, about a mile from the northern line of Waterbury. The Freeman says the discovery was made, as early as August last, by a returned Californian, while fishing in a brook. Having bought the farm, he made known his discovery, dug and washed out a small quantity from the banks, and permitted visitors to do the same, as a matter of curiosity.—One panful of earth produced 37 cents worth of gold. The owner thinks, from the few experiments he has made, that the diggings will prove as rich as the average of diggings in California. It is also stated that gold has been found also in the north part of the same town, by another returned Californian, on the stream coming from Mansfield Mountain.

Some experiments in Gunnery have been made recently at Washington Navy Yard. The object is to test the metal (cast-iron) of which a heavy piece of ordnance is constructed, with a view to its adaptation to the navy. The gun is the largest in the country, with a bore of 11 inches and weighing 16,000 pounds. Upwards of one thousand and forty rounds have been fired thus—generally thirty a day. Fifteen pounds of powder serve for a single charge and the shot averages each 163 pounds.—Twelve men are required to work this mammoth piece of artillery. The effects of each discharge on the metal are carefully noted.

A FEARFUL SCENE.—At the Centre market this morning a little boy, nine or ten years old, a son of Mr. Stanley, who resides on the Island, was seized in the crowded market place by an angry bull dog, from which he could not be rescued until the animal was killed by blows from a number of cleavers, which cut open his head, and nearly severed it from his body. Fortunately, the child, protected by the thickness of his clothing, was not dangerously hurt. The owner of the dog was fined three dollars for permitting him to go into the market place.—Washington Globe, November 30.

PATENT COAL HOOD.—The Bristol Phoenix says a patent has recently been procured by a gentleman in town for an improved coal hood. The improvement over the common hood consists in its having a double bottom, back and front—the inside or lining of the bottom and front is perforated with holes for the escape of all dust which may be mixed with the coal.—After the clear coal has been used from the hood, the dust is poured out from an orifice in the top of the back chamber.

Two manufacturing chemists have presented to the French academy of science sealed papers, each containing a specimen of artificial quinine, which they had made by different processes. The pathological of the substance are to be tested, and if they are found satisfactory the discovery is certainly important. It will obviate the necessity of importing the bark of the cinchona trees, from which alone the great tonic is now extracted.—Bost Post

THE HARD TIMES.—The New York Post analyzes the effect of the hard times upon the various kinds of business in that city. Real estate has fallen thirty to fifty per cent., the eating houses and hotels have lost half their business, the pawnbrokers are over-run with trade, the theatres are more crowded than usual, and, strange to say, all some of the ladies wear their old bonnets.

GRAPE CULTURE.—The N. Y. Tribune earnestly recommends the farmers to give more attention to the culture of the vine. It instances the Iona vineyard, two miles above Peekskill, which this year will yield eight tons of grapes. The bearing time, cover about fifteen acres of what was until within a few years, as unproductive a spot as any other of the idle acres along the Hudson. The grapes are of the Isabella and Catawba varieties, and bring from 14 to 18 cents a pound in the market. The Tribune shows that it is more profitable to cultivate grapes than corn, and advises the farmers of New York to leave corn and cabbage to the Western farmers and plant their own acres with vines.—This is good advice, but the grapes which the Tribune pronounces the best and healthiest for that grow, and which it proposes to raise in such abundance, cannot all be disposed of as fruit, and would not be, if they could be sold for three cents a pound. The largest portion of them would be made into wine to take the place of much that is imported. It would be the pure juice of the grape, and stand up in need, when the reeking vineyards of Europe fail. The attention of agriculturists and others in different sections of the country, is being called to the importance of a more general culture of the grape, and we have no doubt that a few years will witness a great change in this respect.

ROUNDING A PERIOD.—A subscriber in the West, remitting his annual subscription for the *Gazette*—an example worthy of imitation—appends the following:

Squire J.—recently aspired to represent this place in the next Legislature, and in hopes of obtaining the nomination he seized all favorable opportunities to address the million. A few nights since there was a caucus at the school house, when Squire J.—delivered one of his flowery speeches which terminated somewhat as follows: "I say, fellow citizens, that the inalienable rights of man are paramount and paramount to all others, and he who cannot put his hand on his heart, and thank God that nothing is ranking within, deserves to lie in a bed—in a bed, I say, gentlemen, he deserves to lie in a bed, in a bed."

"With cracker crumbs in it" shouted the shrill voice of a person anxious to round the period. The laugh was tremendous, and it is doubtful if the Squire gets the nomination. It is supposed that the cracker crumbs in the mouth of a small family, and has experienced the delightful such a bed.—Boston Gazette.

THE "CHEAP BAROMETER."—The *Portland Journal*, after a three years' test, says there is no truth in the statement that a camphor bottle is as good as a barometer to indicate changes in the weather. The *Journal* says:

"We heard the statement many years ago. To test it, we procured a bottle six inches long, and nearly filled it with alcohol in which camphor had been dissolved. After sealing it up, we placed it by the side of our barometer, where it remained under our daily observation for three years.—There has never been in that time a single instance of coincidence in the operation of the camphor with the mercury of the barometer. The camphor would rise in cold weather and sink in warm—but it has never indicated that change in the weight of the atmosphere on which changes in the weather depend."

SPIKING THEIR GUNS.—A correspondent of the London *Morning Herald* thus explains the mode of spiking guns, and describes the spikes:

"The spikes are about four inches long and of the dimensions of a tobacco-pipe; the head flat; a barb at the point acts as a spring, which is naturally pressed to the shaft upon being forced into the touch-hole. Upon reaching the chamber of the gun it resumes its position, and it is impossible to withdraw it. It can only be got out by drilling—no easy task, as they are made of the hardest steel, and being also loose in the touch-hole, there is much difficulty in making a drill bite as effectually as it should do. Its application is the work of a moment, a single tap on the flat head with the palm of the hand sufficing. This can be easily done, even if it is ever so dark."

HOUSE FOR WIDOWS.—George Beach, Esq., of Hartford, Conn., has erected in that city a large brick building, which is called the "House for Widows." It is divided into twelve distinct tenements each containing a living room, bedroom, pantry, closets, water fixtures, and fuel closets in the cellar, and has also a large basement for common use as a washing room, &c. Many of the tenements are already occupied. The tenements are charged with an annual rent of only \$10—just enough to pay insurance, taxes and repairs, which is all the remuneration Mr. Beach asks.

A FAIR RETORT.—The Home Journal in a notice of a wedding gives an amusing account of the discomfiture of a beau, in an attempt to get the upper hand of a young girl, whom, from her modest and unpresuming demeanor, he doubtless thought a fair butt for his wit.

"Do you know what I was thinking of all the time during the ceremony?" asked he. "No sir—what?" "Why, I was blessing my stars that I was not the bridegroom!" "And I suppose the bride was doing the same thing!" rejoined his fair antagonist.

WORTH REMEMBERING.—One day last week, Mrs. Mather, one of the teachers of the Bigelow School, South Boston, went to a closet, at her boarding house for a glass of sweet cider. She accidentally took up the wrong jug, and poured out a glass of the camphene, drank a quantity before she detected her mistake. A physician was promptly called and the white of twelve eggs administered, when the camphene was removed from her stomach without doing her any material injury.

A DITCHMAN at Amherstburg, Canada, hearing of the accident on the Great Western Railway, and of large sums paid to the relatives of parties killed, in the warth of his heart, exclaimed, "Oh! I wish my wife had been there—I would have got \$5000!" The wife hearing of it, called him to account, when he denied the fidelity of the report, and said, "No, my dear—I said \$50,000!" when the good woman seemed well pleased to find how highly she was estimated.

TURNING THE AGUE TO ACCOUNT.—The Bellefontaine (Ohio) Republican, says the Hossiers on the Wabash turn their "ague-shakes" to some account.—They climb into the top of a "shell bark" just as the chill comes on, and by the time the "personal earthquake" leaves them, there is not a bickery nut left on the tree.

VERY CONSIDERATE.—We see Messrs. Blackwood and Sons have advertised an "Atlas to Alison's History of Europe."—Something has long been wanting to enable the reader to find his way through the intricacies of that very perilous production.

Water Blanche Oil to sell on commission.
preparing to transact the trade at the
premises. C. SHERMAN & CO.
Jan 28. Market Square

Jan. 1, 1892.

The Stove for the People

THIS SUBSCRIBER has received the B. & C. Cooking Stove, the latest and best of the kind, and will be glad to see all who are interested in the same. Also for sale Bar State May, Fickert, and Cooking Stoves.

WM. BROWNE
193 Thaine Street
Sep. 4.

LYKEN'S VALLEY COA
 A TRUE SUBSCRIBER has a supply of
 Coal which was introduced and gave a
 great satisfaction last year. I can confidently
 recommend the above to be of excellent qual-
 ity to be kindle, quite free from slate, and with
 an economical coal to the customer.
 CHARLES WILLIAMS,
 Williams' Wharfe
 July 22

PAINTS, GLASS, &c.
THIS subscriber, having taken the store No. 23 Lombard Street, for the purpose of carrying on the business of Painting and Glazing in all its branches, is prepared to execute all orders in his line in a most thorough manner. Particular attention paid to Glazing and Sign painting, and the work warranted to give entire satisfaction. A share of public patronage is solicited.
 Feb 25 **JOHN C. STODDARD.**

N. B.—The above lot of Mittens and Gloves vary in price from 25 cents to \$5.00, and is the most complete assortment of good mittens, and gloves ever offered in this market. In this lot is a few pair of Beaver, Russian Dog, Fawn and Buck Skin Gauntlets of superior quality for drivers. Also a good assortment of Indian Tan Drivers' Gloves. Let every driver call and get a pair at the wholesale price, at 152 Thames st.

J. H. COZZENS.

W. Pouches, Tobacco Pouches, &c. Just received by
Oct 28. B. H. TISDALE & SON.

Bachelors' Hair Dye.
THIS ES1 is the world, easily applied and
sure in its operation. Also Ballard's, Hutch-
ins' and Jules Haussel's, for sale by
Oct 28. B. H. TISDALE & SON.

(a pure article of Holland Gin) will always
found at our store as well as the first quality
French Brandy and other pure Wines and Li-
quors.
H. H.)

Hungarian Balm.
FOR giving to the Hair soft and glossy ap-
pearance, removing Scurf and Dandruff, at-
tending to the scalp, and curing itching humors.
July 22nd and 24th 1851. R. J. TAYLOR